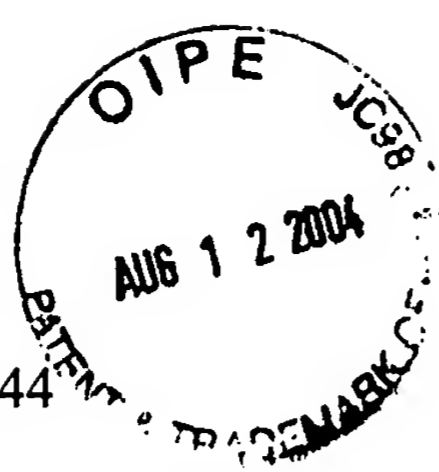


Docket No.: 65933-044



IFW

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
	:	
Naoteru MATSUBARA, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 4231
	:	
Serial No.: 10/664,875	:	Group Art Unit: 2811
	:	
Filed: September 22, 2003	:	Examiner: J. Im
	:	
For:		SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE INCLUDING INTERCONNECTS FORMED BY DAMASCENE PROCESS AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Restriction Requirement
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Office Action dated July 14, 2004, the Examiner imposed a Restriction Requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, requiring election of either:

Group I. Claims 1 through 5, directed a semiconductor device; or

Group II. Claims 6 through 17, directed to a method.

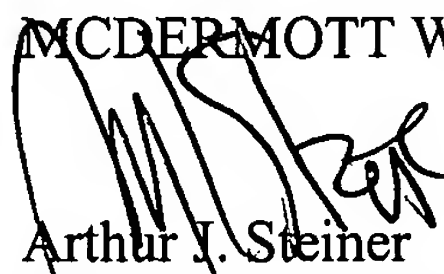
In response Applicants elect to process device claims 1 through 5 (Group I). Favorable consideration of claims 1 through 5 is solicited. Applicants further solicit rejoinder of non-elected method claims 6 through 17, upon the determination of an allowable device claim, pursuant to the provisions of MPEP§821.04.

10/664,875

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 12, 2004